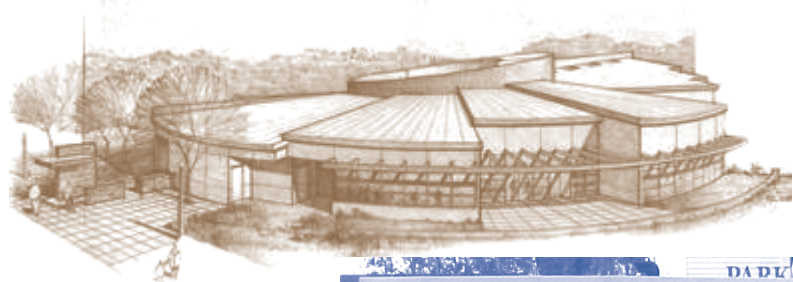
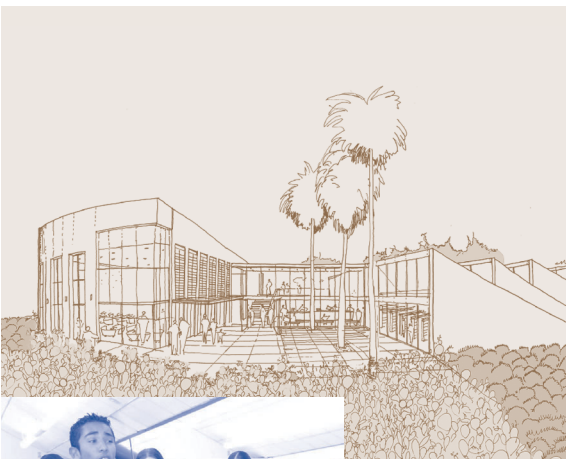


Groundbreaking Celebrations for Two Branch Libraries

On February 20, Mayor Dick Murphy and Councilmember Jim Madaffer broke ground for a new College-Rolando Branch Library to be located at the corner of Montezuma Road and Reservoir Drive. Designed by McGraw/Baldwin Architects, the \$6.1 million, 15,000-square-foot facility will be more than three times larger than the current College Heights Branch Library. The new, state-of-the-art library will more than double the book and media collection and provide 30 computers to better meet the educational and recreational needs of local residents. Community meeting rooms and a 65-space parking area will be included. The project is scheduled to be completed in late 2005.



Left to right: Library Director Anna Tatár, Branch Manager Harriet Cohen, and Library Commissioner Judy McCarty



Groundbreaking for an expansion of the Otay Mesa/Nestor Branch Library was celebrated by the community on February 26 with Mayor Dick Murphy and Councilmembers Ralph Inzunza and Jim Madaffer doing the digging. Located at 3003 Coronado Ave., the \$4.6 million project has been designed by Safdie Rabines Architects. The library will be closed during construction and is scheduled to be completed in mid-2005. The size of the current 10,000-square-foot Otay Mesa/Nestor Branch will be increased to 15,000 square feet, providing larger meeting and conference rooms, a computer lab, additional space for collections of library materials, and an improved learning environment for residents. The project will also include repairs and improvements to the original building.



Montgomery High School Mariachi

These two library projects are part of the City of San Diego's \$312.3 million library building program, approved by the Mayor and City Council in 2002, which calls for the building of 13 new libraries and the expansion of 11 existing branches over the next 10 years. One of the new facilities will be a new Main Library downtown. The new Point Loma/Hervey Branch Library opened in 2003; an expanded La Jolla/Riford Branch Library reopened March 27; and groundbreakings for three more library projects are planned in 2004.



New La Jolla/Riford Branch Library

A Message from the Director



The year 2004 is shaping up to be an exciting year for the San Diego Public Library!

The American Library Association held its 2004 Midwinter Conference in San Diego January 9-14, and with it came kudos and a special grant for the San Diego Public Library. The conference attracted thousands of library staff from all over the country for a series of meetings, discussions and exhibits and offered an opportunity for San Diego to show off its two newest libraries in Mission Valley and Point Loma.

The January issue of *Library Journal* magazine included news about the conference and featured a glowing editorial with the headline "San Diego is Library City!" praising the City of San Diego's \$312.3 million program to build or expand 24 libraries over 10 years. In addition, the ALA board issued a resolution commending the Mayor and City Council for backing the plan to improve the library system.

On January 9, the first day of the conference, it was announced that all public libraries in San Diego and Imperial counties will benefit from a \$100,000 federal grant to expand the services of Tutor.com. The web-based company provides online homework assistance to students in fourth through 12th grades. The service is offered through the San Diego Public Library's web site so that students can access Tutor.com from home. The grant was secured by U.S. Rep. Randy Cunningham, who took part in the announcement with Tutor.com CEO George Cigale.

The timing of Mayor Dick Murphy's State of the City address during the library conference was coincidental, but emphasized the City's commitment to improving the library system. The mayor announced that work will begin in 2004 on four branches, with continuing progress on the new Main Library, and that the expansion of the La Jolla/Riford Branch would soon be completed. In his address, he stated: "A good library enhances the quality of life of every single person in its community. It gives kids a clean and positive place to go. And it gives all people access to information and personal growth. That's why my vision for San Diego includes a first-class library for everyone in every part of the city."

Anna Tatár

Author Chalmers Johnson Receives 2004 LOLA Award (Local Author Lifetime Achievement Award) From Library Director Anna Tatár.



Library Director Anna Tatár with Chalmers Johnson
Photo by Earnie Grafton, San Diego Union-Tribune

This award is given annually to an author who has had a distinguished writing career and whose published work has provided significant enrichment to the San Diego community. His latest book, "Sorrows of Empire: Militarism, Secrecy, and the End of the Republic," was published earlier this year. The ceremony took place January 31 at the 38th Annual Local Authors Reception and Book Exhibit at the Central Library.

"Mr. Library" Jim Dawe Receives Volunteer of the Year Award

Last fall, the San Diego Association of Fundraising Professionals awarded San Diego attorney Jim Dawe its first Volunteer of the Year Award. Those who work in the library field were not surprised by this recognition, having been inspired by his tremendous commitment and dedication to libraries for the past 20 years at the local, state and national levels. He began as chair of the Board of Library Commissioners for the City of San Diego in the mid-1980s, a job he held for eight years. Former Gov. Pete Wilson then appointed Mr. Dawe to the Library Board of California, where he served as chairman, vice chairman and legislative committee chair over the next eight years.

At the national level he was designated one of 10 outstanding library advocates of the last 100 years by the American Library Association. He served eight years on the Urban Libraries Council Board (three years as chairman); drafted federal legislation on behalf of public libraries nationwide; served as a delegate to the White House Conference on Library and Information Services; and is a member of the American Library Trustee Association.

In 2000, Mr. Dawe chaired the Californians for Literacy and Community Libraries campaign. Through his leadership, the voters of California passed a \$350 million bond measure, known as Proposition 14, for the construction and renovation of public libraries. This is the largest construction bond measure for libraries that has ever been approved in the nation. San Diego Public Library has already benefited from this bond measure. In 2002, the State of California approved more than \$5.35 million for a new Logan Heights Branch Library; and in 2003, the City of San Diego was awarded a \$20 million grant to help fund a new Main Library in downtown San Diego.

Mr. Dawe is now involved in overseeing the San Diego Public Library Foundation which is dedicated to raising the more than \$50 million needed for construction of the new Main Library and 23 new or expanded branch libraries as part of a \$312.3 million, system-wide improvement program. The foundation may continue after these projects are completed to establish an endowment for the future of San Diego's libraries.



Check Us Out

is a quarterly publication of San Diego Public Library

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Editors, Alyce Archuleta and Arian Collins

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Briefly Noted...



Jay Hill, Library Development Director, has been named among *San Diego Magazine's* "50 People to Watch in 2004," in the magazine's January 2004 issue. He "...is charged with raising more than \$50 million of the \$312.3 million needed to build a new Main Library and 23 branches. Hill, a triathlete, is accustomed to big challenges."

The City of San Diego received \$750,000, the first installment of a **\$3.5 million gift from The San Diego Foundation's Hervey Family Fund to help build a new Skyline Hills/Page Branch Library.** The library will be named after the late Mae Bell Page, who lived in Skyline Hills and was a former employee of the Hervey family. The Hervey Family Fund also donated \$5 million to build the Point Loma/Hervey Branch Library that opened in September 2003.

The Grand Opening of the Allied Gardens/Benjamin Branch Library Flamingo Terrace Patio, an outdoor patio



Left to right: Barbara Le Tourneau, Sheila Fleming, Shirley Conlon and Manuela "Nell" Torrez in front of "Redwork Romance" quilt by Nell Torrez

redesigned as a quiet reading garden open to the public, took place in November. "Quilted Poetry," a display of the work of five master quilters, opened the same day; and a ceremony commending library volunteers was held at the opening reception.

The San Diego City Council has unanimously approved purchase of the property located at 215 Washington Street as the site for the new Mission Hills/Hillcrest Branch Library.



USD President Mary Lyons

Linda Vista Branch Library hosted a reception for incoming University of San Diego President Mary Lyons. She read a storybook and met with students from five local schools. This was one of many activities in the community to celebrate Presidential Inauguration Week.

Skyline Hills/Page Branch Library has received a Partnerships in Education Exemplary Partnership Award from the San Diego Unified School District. The library entered into a formal partnership agreement with Freese Elementary School in 1995. The mission of the partnership is "to promote community collaboration and

improve student achievement by supporting teaching and learning in the classroom and to support literacy and initiate close collaboration between schools and public libraries."



Joshua (8) and Zachary (4) Marx

Joshua and Zachary Marx, two young library users who live in Carlsbad, **sent their Hanukkah money to San Diego Public Library for buying books. Thank you, boys!**

What's Happening at Your Library? A new Library Calendar of Events provides more up-to-date information on the web site about upcoming programs and activities at both Central and branch libraries. It is organized by month, date, type of event and location. Users can print listings or email them to friends. Access this improved calendar at www.sandiego.gov/public-library/. Choose Calendar of Events. On the same page choose *Library Connection* Newsletters Subscriptions and Archive to subscribe to the Library email newsletter.



In January, **Sharon Robinson spoke at the Mission Valley Branch Library about her latest book "Promises to Keep: How Jackie Robinson Changed America."** The daughter of baseball legend Jackie Robinson and vice president of educational programming for Major League Baseball, she works closely with the American Library Association and attended its January Midwinter Meeting in San Diego.

The San Diego River Park Foundation dedicated a bronze sculpture of a red-tailed hawk, "Watchful Eyes" by Artist Cliff Hollestelle, at the Mission Valley Branch Library. Council-member Donna Frye welcomed attendees, and the sculpture was unveiled by Bryn Watson of Pacific Southwest Wildlife Arts Board. The sculpture will reside at the library until the River Park is completed.

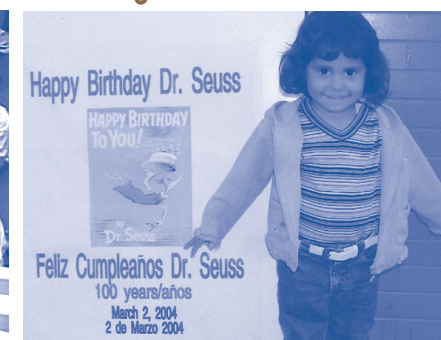


On February 7, **Scripps Ranch Friends of the Library held a Back to the Future reception, dinner and dance event to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the library and raise money to purchase CDs, DVDs and a new sound system and LCD projector for the library community room.** The menu featured food from the 1950s and one-third of the 175 attendees dressed in period attire. Together the silent and live auctions raised approximately \$10,000 to benefit the library. The most popular auction items were two baseball packages of six field-level seats at the new Petco Park.

Seuss Loose at the Library-Seussentennial Celebration



City Heights/Weingart



Celida Herrera, San Ysidro

On March 2, the world celebrated the 100th birthday of beloved children's author Theodor "Dr. Seuss" Geisel. From February 28 through March 5, libraries were invaded by cats in stovepipe hats, a dust-protecting elephant, a tree-loving Lorax, Sam and his breakfast of green eggs and ham and a host of other characters from Dr. Seuss books as San Diego Public Library honored him with a series of fun-filled events.



Caitlin Gurholt, Carmel Valley

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In Memory of:

Cosmo & Celes Bua:

Carmine & Susan Bua

Leah Edelson:

Marvin & May Berman

Helen Hennessy:

Alice Slomko

Rena Holford:

Jan Wischnia

Mary Rolston:

Robert Irving & Julie Greenberg

For corrections, please contact the Development Office at (619) 236-5849 or cbennett@sandiego.gov

Lifetime Champion of Libraries

Dorothy Meyers is a native San Diegan born in Mercy Hospital in 1925. She and her sister Jean lived with her grandparents in East San Diego County while they were growing up. In 1937 they began spending their summers in Logan Heights. That year, 66 years ago, Dorothy and Jean visited the Logan Heights



Dorothy Meyers with her favorite books

Branch Library and registered for their first library cards. She remembers that they were so proud to have one. When she saw the article about the new Logan Heights Branch Library in the *Check Us Out* newsletter in March 2003, she sent a contribution to the library right away enclosing a note about her first library card and saying, "I have to support that library because it's so special to me. The library is the most important thing in our lives."

Dorothy has been a lifetime champion of libraries. In 1944 she married her husband before he entered the Army during World War II. When he returned, they moved to Chicago for nine years then back to San Diego. She worked for the telephone company wherever she lived and was never without a library card. As a native Californian she belongs to the San Diego Parlor of the Native Daughters of the Golden West. She spends much of her time crocheting and painting on fabric to create handmade items to raise money for their activities. This cuts into the amount of time she has for her other passion....reading. She calls herself an omnivorous reader because she likes to read everything, although she confesses to a preference for historical novels and mysteries. Dorothy's solution to this dilemma is to borrow books-on-tape from the library so that she can do two things at once.

She now lives in a downtown condominium and uses the Central Library. Her favorite areas are the new Media Center (for books-on-tape) and the Literature Section (for large print books). She is a big fan of the library's telephone reference service both for answers to "ticklish" questions and for asking that materials from other libraries be sent to her. And she has a warm spot in her heart for San Diego Public libraries as public spaces. "I feel so comfortable and at home in libraries. There is such welcoming warmth when I walk in the door. Books are my friends, and I'm surrounded by friends at the library. And library staff are always really nice."

Contributions are vital to the San Diego Public Library and easy to give by mail or phone.

Every dollar given to the Library Matching Materials Fund is matched 100% by the City of San Diego and is used to purchase books and materials citywide.

**Development Office
City of San Diego Public Library
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Innovative Book Clubs

Across America book clubs for all ages are experiencing unprecedented popularity. In addition to book discussion groups for adults, San Diego Public Library sponsors child-parent book clubs to encourage families to communicate and share their thoughts about chosen books in a friendly, relaxed atmosphere.



The girls have become more self-confident and take more initiative in choosing books to read and discuss. She sees a "whole lot of enjoyment going on." To enhance the reading experience, this group elected to change its format to a Child-Parent Book Club to include boys.



The Clairemont Branch Library has formed a Mother-Daughter Book Club. Girls, ages 7-10, are invited to participate along with their mothers or grandmothers. Fran Tessmer, who coordinates the group, has observed that, over the 18 months the club has been in operation, the girls have become more self-confident and take more initiative in choosing books to read and discuss. She sees a "whole lot of enjoyment going on." To enhance the reading experience, this group elected to change its format to a Child-Parent Book Club to include boys.

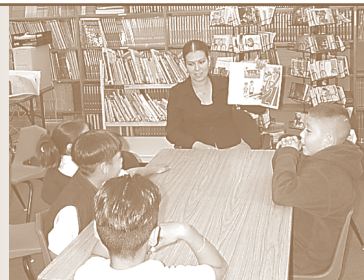
Carmel Valley and Mission Valley Branch Libraries host Child-Parent Book Clubs for students, grades 4-5, and their parents. The program began in 1997 at Carmel Valley and was designed to increase communication between parents and children. After youth services librarian Barbara Schwartz was transferred to Mission Valley, she started the second book club in 2003. The original club is still in existence at Carmel Valley and is now managed by Eileen Labrador. These groups administer the structure of the club, choosing which books they will read, the format for discussion and the activities that take place during the meeting. One of the children's favorite activities is Reader's Theatre where participants are assigned a character and recite a scene from the book in front of the group. Parents get the opportunity to see firsthand how their kids learn and understand and are sometimes surprised with what they discover.

For information about these book clubs call:

- **Clairemont (858) 581-9935**
- **Carmel Valley (858) 552-1668**
- **Mission Valley (858) 573-5007**

L.I.F.E. at San Ysidro Branch Library

READ/San Diego, San Ysidro Branch Library and the California State Library have partnered for the past two years to create and implement ELLI (English Language Literacy Intensive), better known as L.I.F.E. (Literacy is Fun and Easy). The program offers literacy services to first, second and third graders of Beyer Elementary School and their parents or caregivers.



Program Coordinator Daniela de Leon with L.I.F.E. participants

On a daily basis, participating children are treated to classroom story times in English, word games and other activities designed to improve their English reading skills, raise their test scores and help them become successful students – while having fun! Every Tuesday and Thursday evening parents and caregivers attend classes at the library to hone their English skills. Many are preparing for the GED.

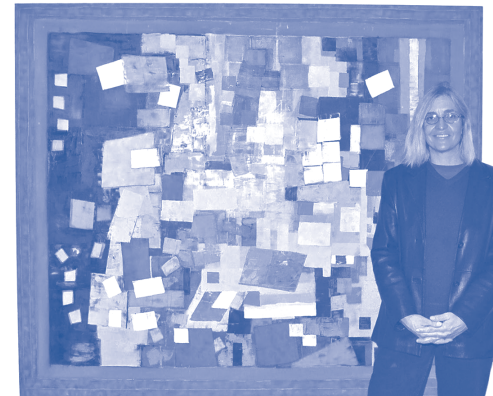
The final component of the program is Friday Parent Nights, which draw an enthusiastic audience of parents and children. Library skills activities such as tours of the library and demonstrations of the online catalog are conducted and children have an opportunity to read to their parents. Special events, book giveaways from READ/San Diego and refreshments make for lively evenings.

Janet Cooling Artwork @ Point Loma/Hervey

An important painting by artist Janet Cooling has been added to the San Diego Public Library's Permanent Art Collection.

Acquired under the auspices of the Library's Visual Arts Program, the large, untitled, abstract work has

been installed on the lower level of the Point Loma/Hervey Branch Library. The painting was purchased with funds donated by the Hervey family and Alice and Douglas Diamond. Based in San Diego and New York, Cooling is an internationally-known artist and an art professor at SDSU. Renowned as a colorist and a "painter's painter," she is regarded as a historically important figure in contemporary American art and is referenced in many authoritative art publications. Her work has been featured in exhibitions at the Venice Biennale, the New Museum of Contemporary Art in New York, the Art Institute of Chicago and the San Diego Museum of Art, among others.



Mission Valley Open Air Market



The Friends of the Mission Valley Branch Library have been busy recruiting new members and coming up with innovative fundraising activities that suit the needs of this unique community. A popular and successful idea is the weekly Open Air Market, which began in April and is held in the parking lot and entryway to the library. Every Sunday from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m., people stroll the aisles choosing flowers and fruit, sampling tasty foods, talking with crafts people about their wares, buying books and magazines from the Friends and listening to live music.

A farmer who has been involved in local farmers' markets for years has taken on the job of market manager. He is responsible for securing farmers, vendors and permits for the event and ensuring that the lot is cleaned up after each market. He works closely with the Friends group, which receives a percentage of the sales from some booths and rent from others. With the proceeds, Friends have funded library programs and made substantial donations to the Matching Books and Media Fund.

Find the Gold in the Central Library California Room

The opening of the new baseball stadium Petco Park will bring spectator sporting activities back to downtown San Diego. There is a building, now owned by Jerome's, across from the Police Headquarters at 1485 E Street, that played a significant role in spectator sport history in San Diego. What was the building used for until the 1970s?



Answer: The building, the Coliseum Athletic Club, was second only to Balboa Stadium in its seating capacity for public sporting events. From the 1920s through the 1950s the Coliseum was a major site of indoor boxing and wrestling events and the site where many boxing careers started. Archie Moore, who was a long-time San Diego resident and is in the Boxing Hall of Fame, was the most famous fighter to have boxed at the Coliseum. His first fight there took place in 1938 against Frank Rowsey whom he stopped in the second round. While Lane Field, Balboa Stadium, and Dreamland Athletic Club have become only memories, the Coliseum stands as tribute to San Diego's urban sporting past.

Sources:

The *Centre City Historical Site Inventory*, pages 64-65 in Part II, RCC 979.498 Centre.

Magee, Jerry. Archie Moore. *San Diego Union-Tribune* December 10, 1998, page A1.



Photo courtesy of San Diego Hall of Champions

Photo: World light-heavyweight champion Archie Moore, right, is seen fighting Canadian boxer Yvon Durelle in 1958 in Montreal in one of the greatest fights in boxing history. Moore won the fight despite the fact that he was approximately 15 years older than his opponent and in the twilight of his career.

Goodbye...

Vere Wolf, Music Librarian at Central Library for many years, passed away December 11, 2003. He established the library's Sunday concert series showcasing local musicians and created an in-depth collection of opera, vocal and instrumental scores which still serves the music community of San Diego well.

However, he was most loved for his series of opera lectures previewing San Diego Opera performances. From 1956 to 1991, he served as the opera preview lecturer for the San Diego Opera offering presentations on specific productions and general topics of opera in venues throughout San Diego County and was responsible for introducing thousands of people to opera.





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Thank You San Diego Public Library

To San Diego Public Library, especially your Music Department:

At a friend's home recently I was playing a piece on her piano. I only knew the first and last parts. I knew it had a middle, (but) I had forgotten it after some 69 years. My friend said she really liked that waltz.

I really wanted to locate that piece of music. I contacted music stores to no avail. Then I called your Library. I spoke to a very amiable voice in the Music section. She said her name was Marilyn*. I told her how very much I would like to locate a copy of music of which I only knew its name: "Valse Lucille." After looking around, she told me the Library didn't have a copy. I do not recall what else was said.

A couple of weeks later a gentleman called from your Library. He said they had located a copy! "Valse Lucille" by Rudolf Friml!!! He said he could send it to Ocean Beach Library, which was close by. I was thrilled!!

When I went to the Ocean Beach Library, they handed me a copy!! Everyone was very amiable and helpful!! I am delighted to practice this charming waltz!

I am certain many people are responsible for my gift! Thank you, each and every one! Especially I do thank Marilyn for "getting the ball rolling"! My friend is also delighted!

Very sincerely,
Mary Elise Rogers

**Marilyn Filderman, Librarian, Central Library*

